

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.
123 US \$2.19



SEGA

SONIC



THE HEDGEHOG

**TORN
BETWEEN
TWO
HOTTIES:**

**"Heart
Held
Hostage"**

CONCLUDES—
BUT WHO'S
HEART ARE WE
TALKING ABOUT
ANYWAY—
PRINCESS SALLY...
OR MINA THE
MONGOOSE?



SPAR
KIBERG

PLUS:

RAD RED
MIGHT BE DEAD,
BUT IT DOESN'T
STOP HIM FROM
GETTING HIS
OWN STORY—
IT'S THE THIRD
INSTALLMENT OF
"AFTERLIFE"



**WHO OR WHAT IS
THE LAST ROBIAN?**
SONIC FINDS
OUT, BUT IT
DOESN'T MAKE
HIM HAPPY





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KARL BOLLERS & J. AXER
PRESENT

SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG

IN

"Heart Held Hostage" part two

CONOR TOMAS
INKER

JASON JENSEN
COLORIST

JEFF POWELL
LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THERE HE IS--

SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG

--MY
DREAM
HUNK--

MINA?!

--AND HE DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW HOW I FEEL
ABOUT HIM.



ARE YOU
CRAZY? WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE?

I-I
CAME TO HELP
YOU.



WHERE ARE
THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS?



I DUNNO.
I GUESS I MUST'VE
LEFT THEM BACK
AT CASTLE
ACORN.

I JUST USED
MY MONGOOSE
SPEED TO TAKE
OFF AFTER YOU.
I REALLY WASN'T
THINKING.



I THINK WE
BOTH JUICED
WITHOUT
THINKING.

WE SURE
DO HAVE A LOT
IN COMMON.
DID YOU EVER
NOTICE
THAT?



OH, GUESS
I WAS FOLLOW-
ING YOUR
LEAD.

OH, SURE.
Y'KNOW WHAT ELSE
I NOTICED? WE
DON'T HAVE MUCH
IN THE WAY OF
BACK-UP.



MY BAD. SO,
IT'S UP TO US TO
SAVE PRINCESS
SALLY FROM
NACK THE WEASEL
AND HIS BOYS?

WELL, AS WE
USED TO SAY BACK
IN THE DAY, "LET'S
DO IT TO IT!"



WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING...

SO, COULD YOU RUN IT BY ME AGAIN, NACK? WHY EXACTLY DID YOU KIDNAP ME?

IT'S GENIUS, BABY!

YOU'RE A PRINCESS WHICH MEANS MOMMY AND DADDY ARE KING AND QUEEN. Y'DIG? WE HOLD YOU HOSTAGE THEY PAY US BIG TO GIVE YOU BACK.



THAT'S YOUR INGENUOUS SCHEME? TRADE ME OFF FOR SOME OF THE FAMILY'S LEFTOVER KINDLING? HUH, I'D HEARD A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT YOU NACK...

...BUT I GUESS I HEARD WRONG.



WHAT DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ME? WHO TOLD YOU?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?



WHY NOT LET ME JOIN YOUR GANG? I COULD KEEP PRETENDING TO BE A HOSTAGE, AND MY PARENTS COULD KEEP PAYING YOU FOR MY SAFE RETURN.



WHY SO SURPRISED?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S
LIKE HAVING ALL OF YOUR
WEALTH CONTROLLED BY
YOUR PARENTS?

IT'S AWFUL!
THIS WOULD BE MY
CHANCE TO GET BACK
AT THEM.

OF COURSE. I FEEL
YOUR PAIN...

REALLY?
DOES IT FEEL
ANYTHING...

...LIKE
THIS?

WHOA, PRINCESS, I
DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD
ALL THIS TEENAGE
RESENTMENT TOWARD
THE 'RENTS.

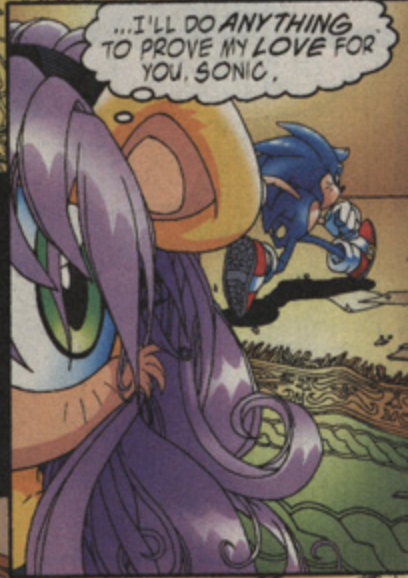
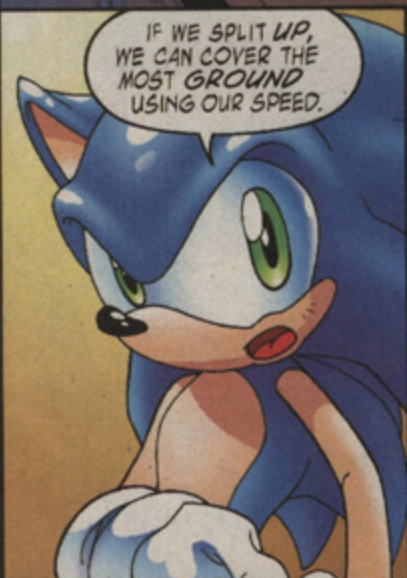
WELL,
WOULDN'T
YOU?

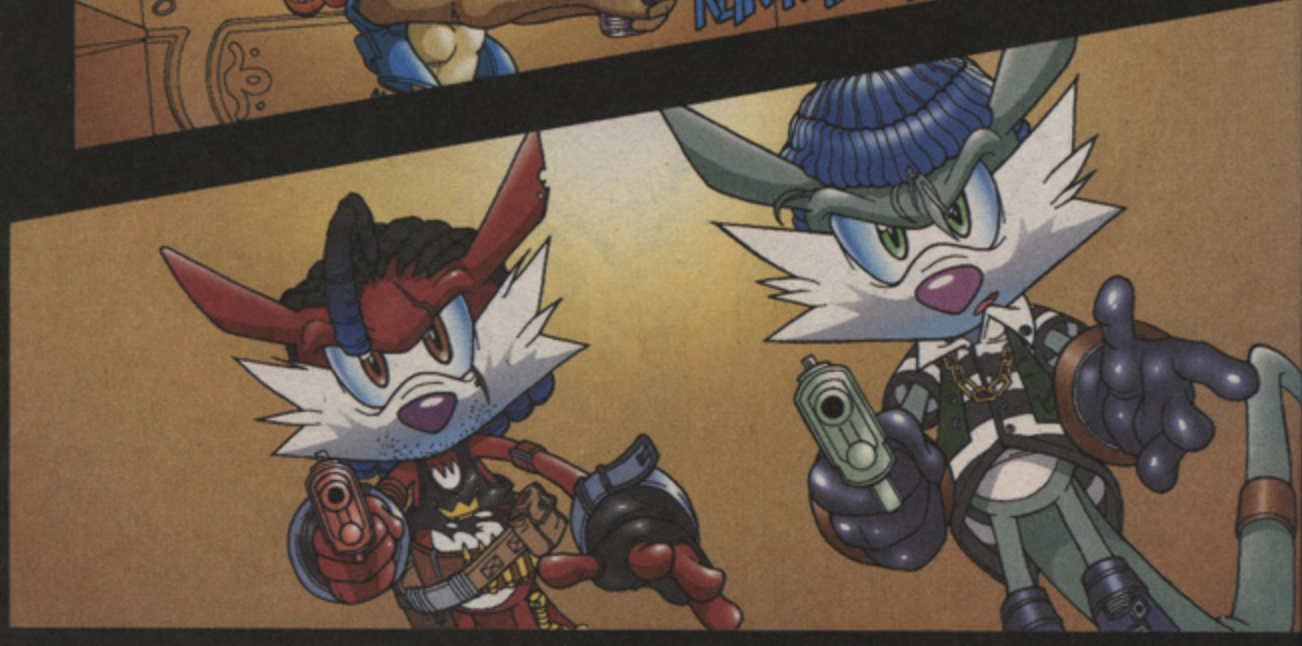
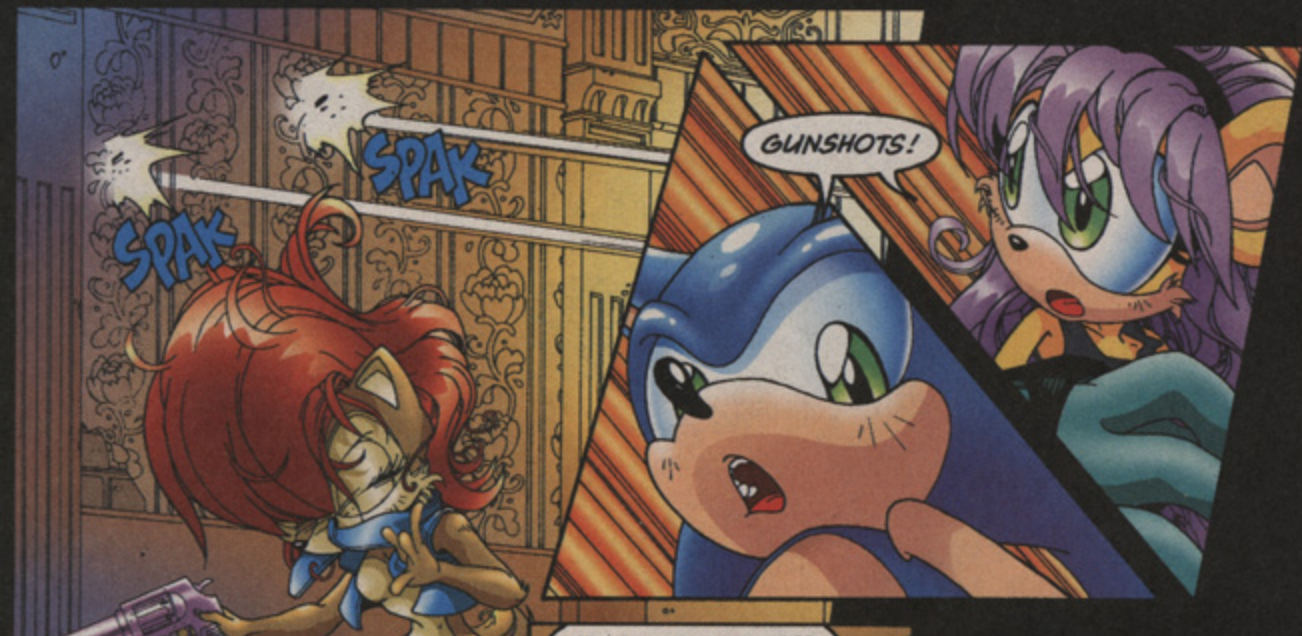
OOH!

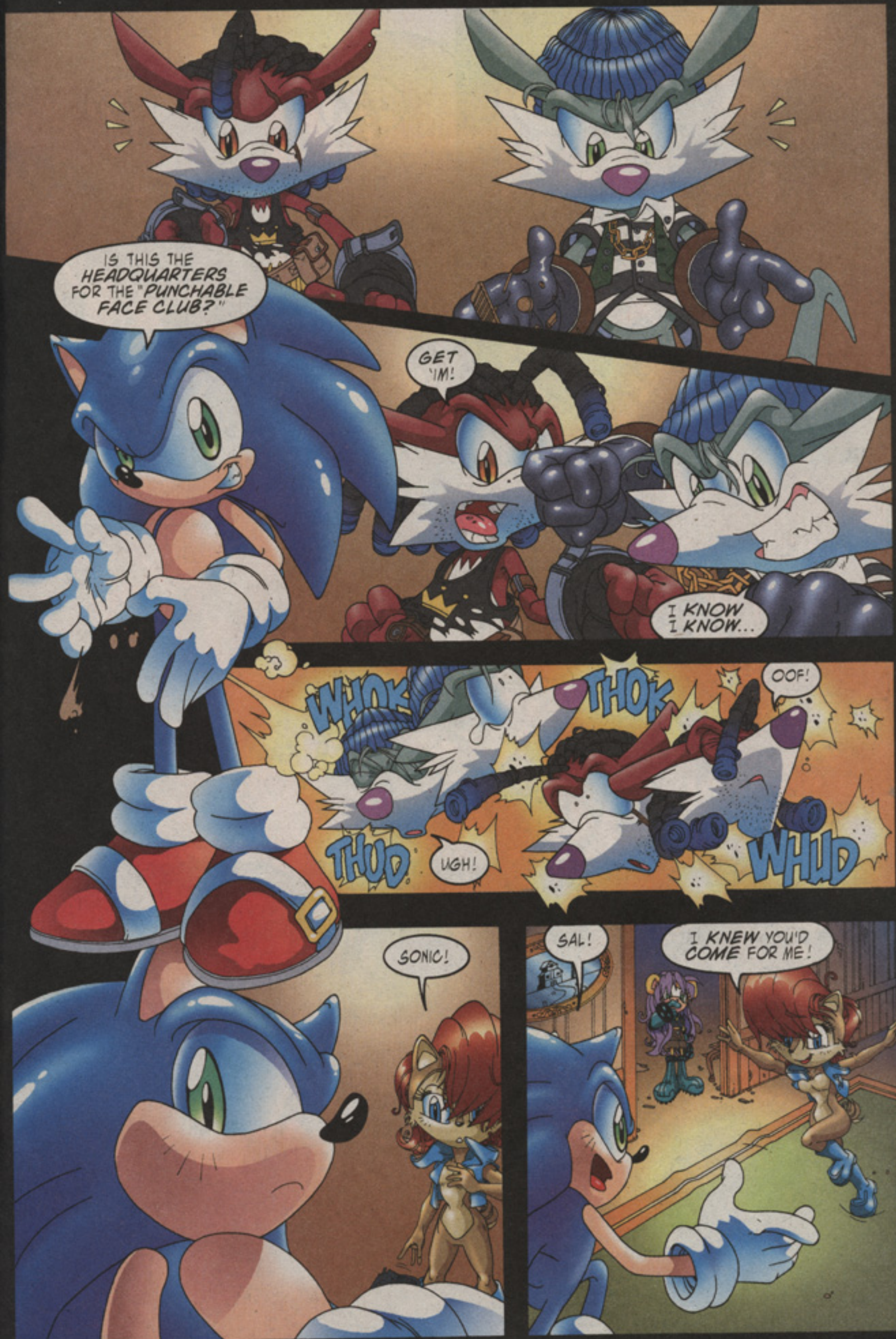
KRUNCH

SIT THIS
ONE OUT, TOUGH
GUY.

I KNOW IT'S
DIFFICULT, BUT
DON'T BE DUMB,
FELLAS. NOW, PUT
DOWN THOSE
WEAPONS NICE
AND SLOW.







IS THIS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE "PUNCHABLE FACE CLUB?"

GET 'IM!

I KNOW I KNOW...

WHOK

THOK

OOF!

THUD

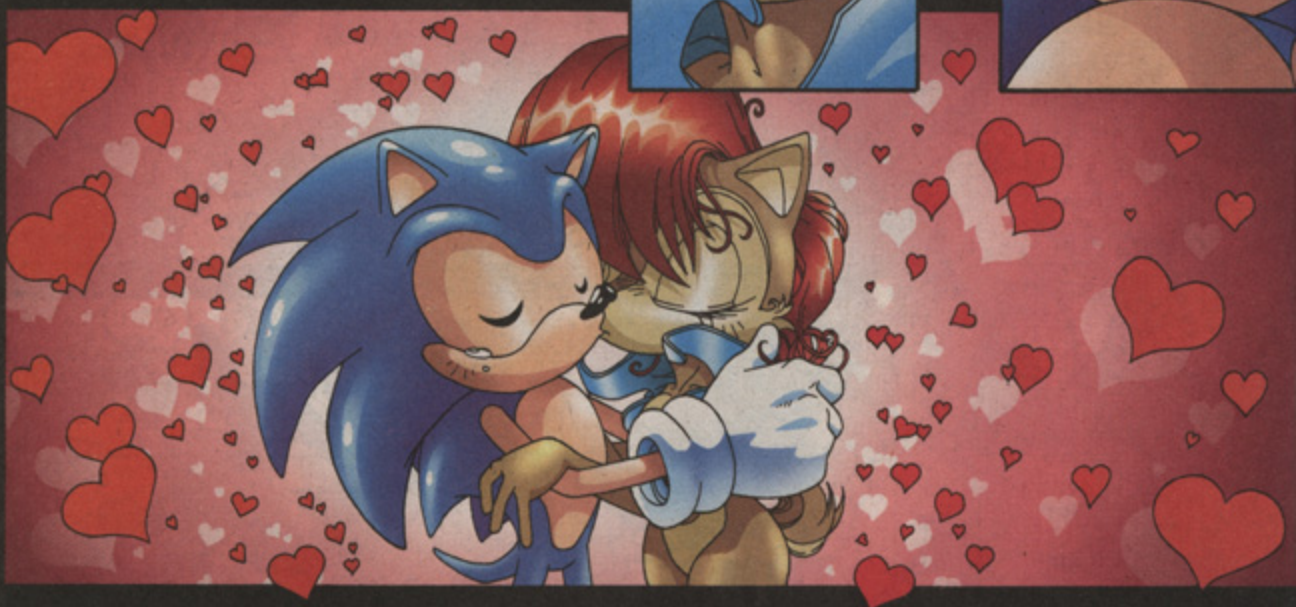
UGH!

WHUD

SONIC!

SAL!

I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR ME!

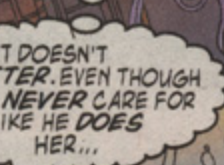




FEEL...
SICK...



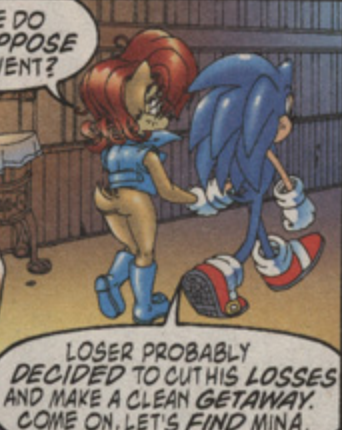
STUPIDSTUPIDSTUPID!
HE LOVES THE PRINCESS
NOT ME. I'VE BEEN
FOOLING MYSELF ALL
ALONG.



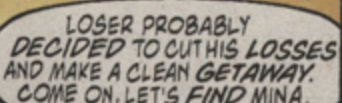
IT DOESN'T
MATTER. EVEN THOUGH
HE'LL NEVER CARE FOR
ME LIKE HE DOES
HER...



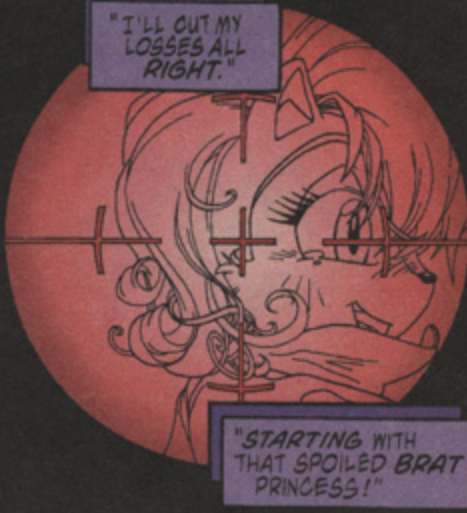
"...I'LL STILL DO
ANYTHING FOR HIM."



WHERE DO
YOU SUPPOSE
NACK WENT?



LOSER PROBABLY
DECIDED TO CUT HIS LOSSES
AND MAKE A CLEAN GETAWAY.
COME ON. LET'S FIND MINA.



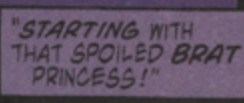
"I'LL CUT MY
LOSSES ALL
RIGHT."



HAVE TO TRY
NOT TO LOOK LIKE
I'VE BEEN CRY--

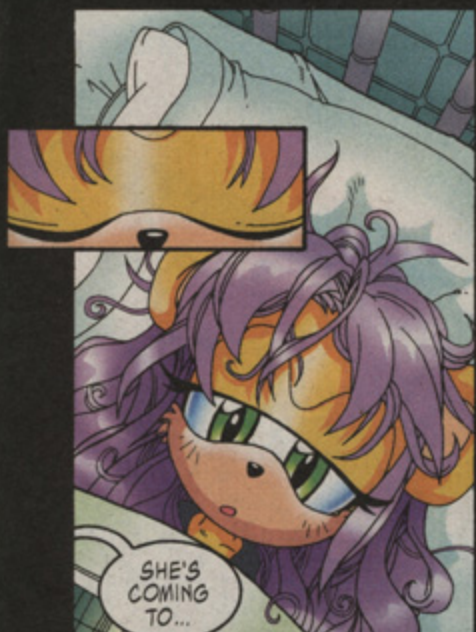


WHA--?!
OH NO!



"STARTING WITH
THAT SPOILED BRAT
PRINCESS!"





KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

AFTERLIFE

Part Three

IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS
COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--
KEN PENDERS-SCRIPT & INKS
ART MAWHINNEY-PENCILS
VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER
J. JENSEN-COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF
SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!

HAS DISCOVERED A
NEW REALITY, AND FINDS
HIMSELF RELIVING OLD
EXPERIENCES...

DON'T YOU
WISH IT COULD
ALWAYS
BE THIS WAY,
KNUCKLES?

YEAH--

--BUT LIKE
THAT'S GONNA
HAPPEN!

BESIDES, YOU GOT **LOTS**
OF **FRIENDS** BACK
HOME, SALLY!

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
NEVER
ALONE!

I SPEND
MORE TIME
LEARNING TO
BE A
PRINCESS
THAN I DO
WITH MY
FRIENDS!

THAT'S
NO FUN!



YOU WERE
QUITE **SMITTEN**
WITH THE **PRINCESS**,
KNUCKLES!

THAT WAS
BEFORE
JULIE-SU!

I'M
JUST SURPRISED
THEY CAN'T SEE
US!

AS I EXPLAINED
TO YOU, YOU'RE
IN A **VIRTUAL**
ZONE--

--A REPOSITORY OF ALL
LIFE'S EXPERIENCES--

--AND YOU ARE
SIMPLY RELIVING
YOURS!



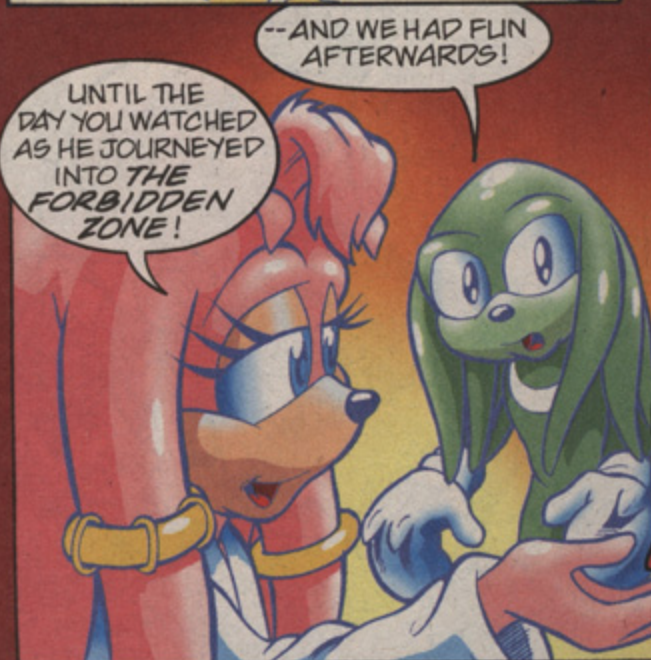
FOR THE MOST
PART, IT WAS PRETTY
ROUTINE BACK THEN!

DAD WOULD
SCHOOL ME, I'D DO
SOME CHORES--



--AND WE HAD FUN
AFTERWARDS!

UNTIL THE
DAY YOU WATCHED
AS HE JOURNEYED
INTO THE
FORBIDDEN
ZONE!



DAD!

YEAH,
THAT WAS
TOUGH
TO
TAKE!



DIDN'T YOU
FEEL **PREPARED**
TO ASSUME
THE MANTLE OF
GUARDIAN?

OH, YEAH!
NO SWEAT!

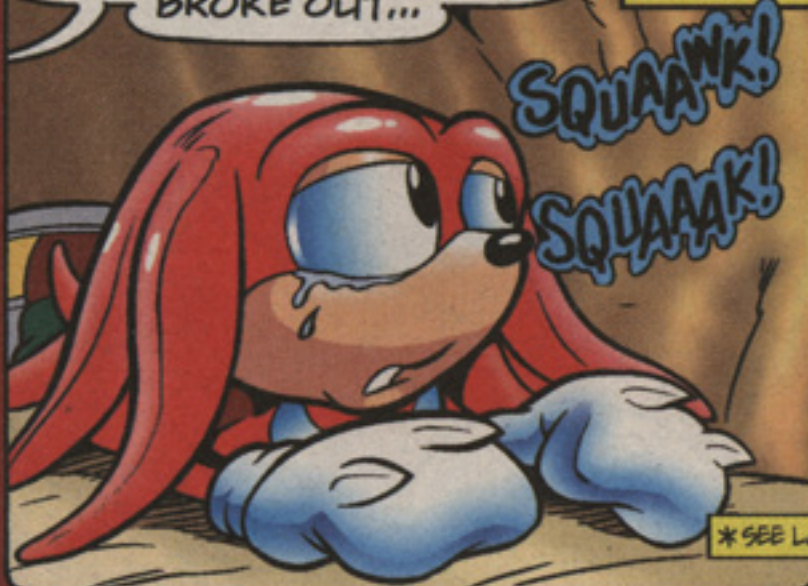
I JUST DIDN'T
WANT MY DAD TO
LEAVE!



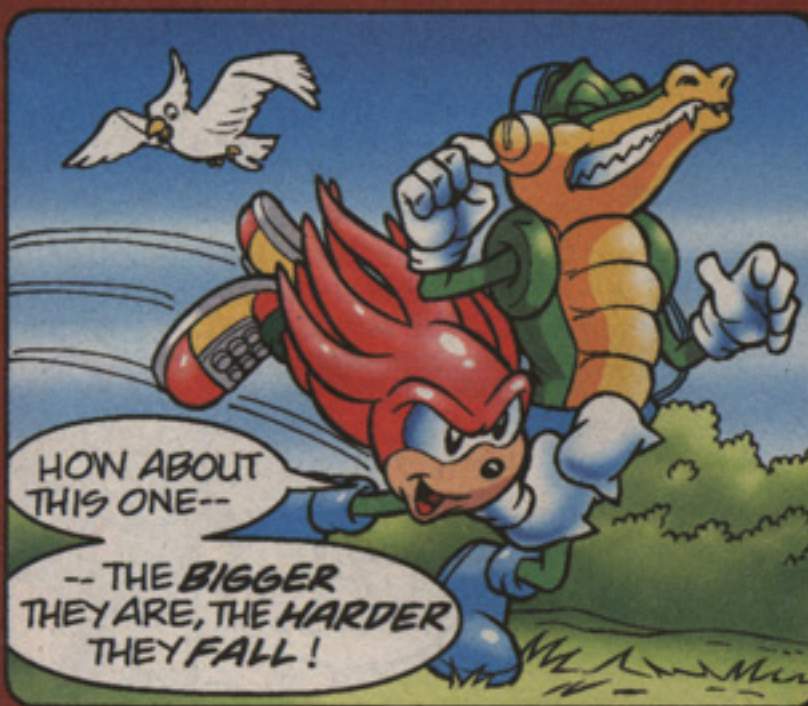
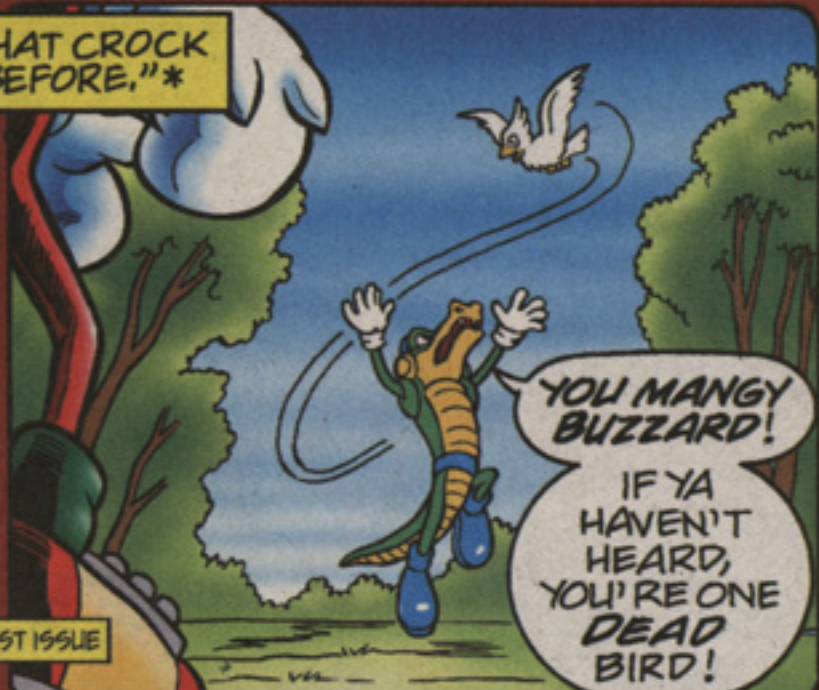
I HADN'T GOTTEN IT OUT OF
MY SYSTEM WHEN A RUCKUS
BROKE OUT...

"IT WAS THAT CROCK
I MET BEFORE."*

SQUAAWK!
SQUAAAK!



*SEE LAST ISSUE



"FOR THE MOST PART, BEING A GUARDIAN WAS
AN EASY GIG, UNTIL THE DAY HE SHOWED UP..."



"NO--THEM! SONIC AND TAILS--"

SO, IF YOU MUGS
WEREN'T AFTER THE
CHAOS EMERALD,
THEN WHO--?

IT WAS THAT CHUMP,
ROBUTTNIK!

"--WHO KEPT POPPING UP
EVERY NOW AND THEN--"

WHO'D OF THUNK
THE RAT WOULD GET
CAUGHT IN HIS OWN
TRAP?!

OR YOU'D
BE HANGING
OUT WITH THE
CHAOTIX?

"--SOMETIMES AS FRIENDS,
BUT USUALLY WE'D END UP
BASHING EACH OTHER OVER
SOME STUPID REASON!"

"BACK ON THE FLOATING ISLAND,
ARCHIMEDES USED MY BUDS TO
LURE ME TO HIM..."

SO GLAD YOU
COULD JOIN US,
KNUCKLES!

WE'VE
A LOT TO
DISCUSS!

"IT TURNED OUT HE WAS
GOING TO TEACH ME A
THING OR TWO ABOUT
BEING A GUARDIAN--"

"--UNTIL MY ANCESTOR'S BROTHER, *DIMITRI*, POPPED INTO GIVE ME A *CRASH COURSE* HIMSELF!

BEHOLD THE *AWESOME POWER* OF--

--*ENERJAK*!

"THINGS LOOKED *GRIM* FOR AWHILE THERE, BUT WE WON IN THE END--

"--THANKS TO SOME ASSISTANCE FROM THE *FIRE-ANTS*--

"--AND SOME *HIDDEN HELP* FROM MY FATHER, *LOCKE*!

"BUT EVEN WITH *ENERJAK* OUT OF SIGHT, THERE WAS STILL *KRAGOK* AND THE *DARK LEGION* TO DEAL WITH SOON AFTER THAT...

YOU CAN EITHER JOIN US, KNUCKLES--

--OR DIE!

"WE FOUGHT, MORE OR LESS, TO A DRAW, AND I ENDED UP MEETING *JULIE-SU* AS A RESULT...

YOU'RE A--
A GIRL!

BOY! YOU'RE
A SWIFT ONE!

ENJOY LIFE AS
A NEURON,
KNUCKLES!

"I'D RATHER DEAL WITH
ENERJAK LITERALLY
TAKING ME APART--

"YOU HAD A *HARDER* TIME DEALING WITH
THE RESTORATION OF BOTH *ECHIDNA* POLIS
AND YOUR MOTHER MOVING TO THE ISLAND.

DON'T
TELL ME MY
SON HAS
FORGOTTEN
HIS OWN
MOTHER!

--THAN HAVING TO
DEAL WITH MY
PARENTS!

MOST
OF THE TIME,
ANYWAY!

WERE THEY THAT
DIFFICULT FOR YOU?

HA
HAHA
HAHA

MAYBE
NOT!

WHEN I GOT THE
FIRST HINT SOMETHING WAS
DIFFERENT ABOUT ME--

YOUR INJURIES!
THEY'RE--THEY'RE
DISAPPEARING!

BUT
HOW?

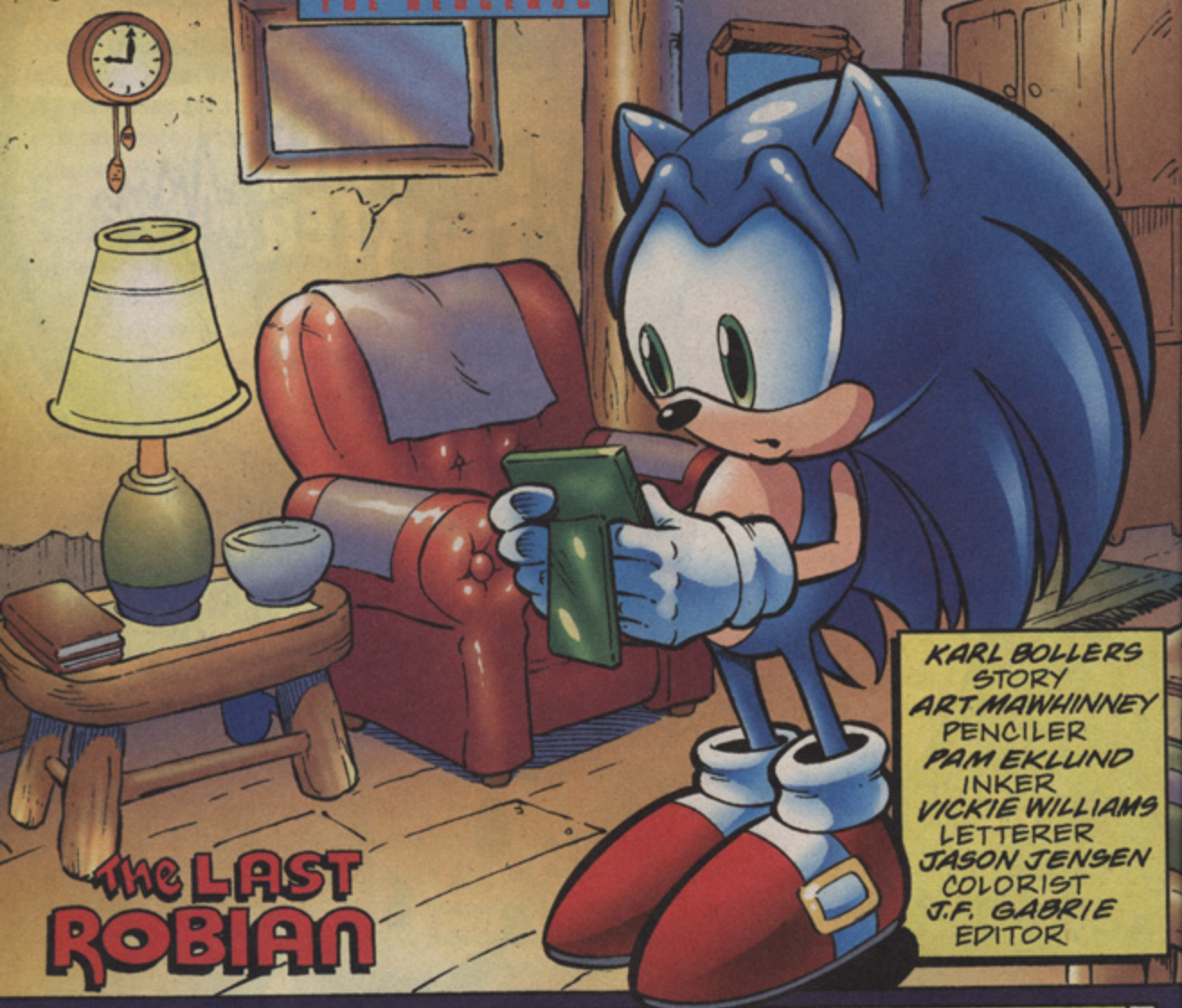
--THAT
WAS REALLY
THE
PITS!

NEXT: IT'S JUDGEMENT DAY FOR
KNUCKLES! BE HERE FOR
THE ASTOUNDING CONCLUSION!

ONE RAINY MORNING, IN
EARLY JUNE--

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

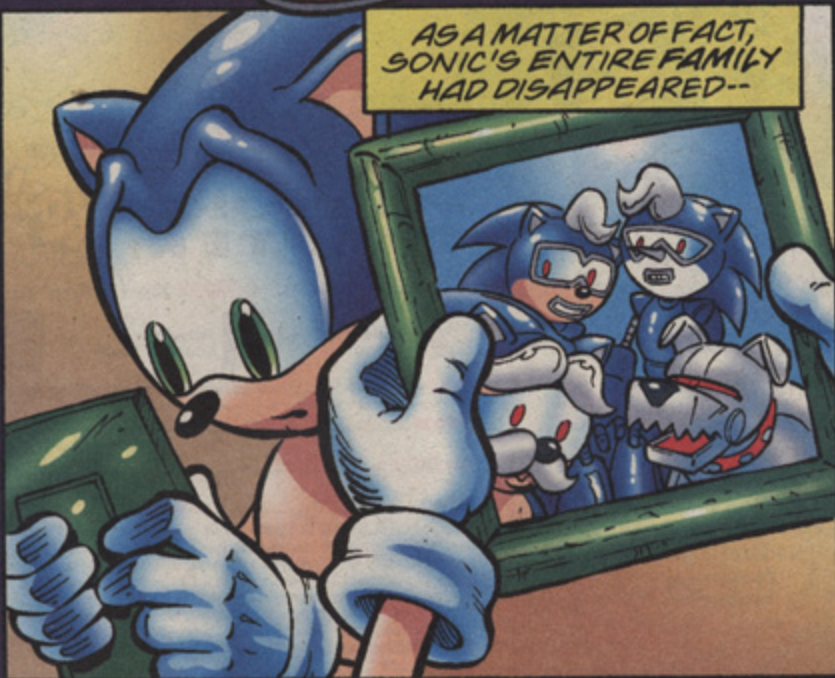


KARL BOLLERS
STORY
ART MAWHINNEY
PENCILER
PAM EKLUND
INKER
VICKIE WILLIAMS
LETTERER
JASON JENSEN
COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

--WOKE UP TO FIND
THAT HIS DOG, MUTTSKI
WAS MISSING.



AS A MATTER OF FACT,
SONIC'S ENTIRE FAMILY
HAD DISAPPEARED--



--AS WELL AS
THE ENTIRE
ROBOTICIZED
POPULATION
OF PLANET
MOBIUS.

--BUT WAS NOWHERE
TO BE FOUND,

SONIC'S FRIENDS TRIED
THEIR BEST TO LEND HIM
COMFORT--

THE EVIL
DOCTOR
ROBOTNIK
WAS
IMMEDIATELY
SUSPECTED OF
THE HEINOUS
ACT--

--AND THE HEROIC HEDGEHOG
FOUND HIMSELF ALSO
CONSOLING OTHERS DURING
THIS TIME OF SUFFERING--

--BUT NOTHING COULD
TAKE AWAY THE AWFUL
PAIN, OR THE AWFUL
FACT--

--THE ROBBIANS
WERE GONE.

AND THEN, LESS THAN THREE WEEKS LATER, SONIC RECEIVED
WORD FROM ALLIES IN DISTANT DEERWOOD FOREST--

--THAT MUTTSKI HAD BEEN FOUND!

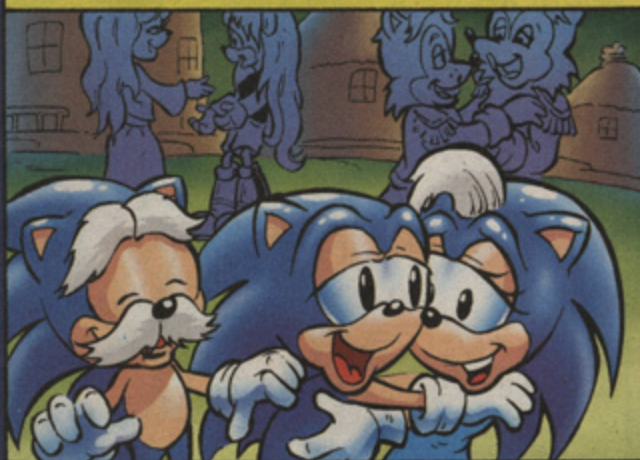
BUT HE HAD BEEN CHANGED,

DEROBOTICIZED, NO
LONGER A CREATURE
OF CIRCUITS AND BOLTS,



AND SLOWLY, OVER THE
FOLLOWING WEEKS--

--THE OTHERS REAPPEARED, ALSO CHANGED,
AND WITH NO MEMORY OF HOW THIS MASS
"METALMORPHOSIS" HAD OCCURRED.



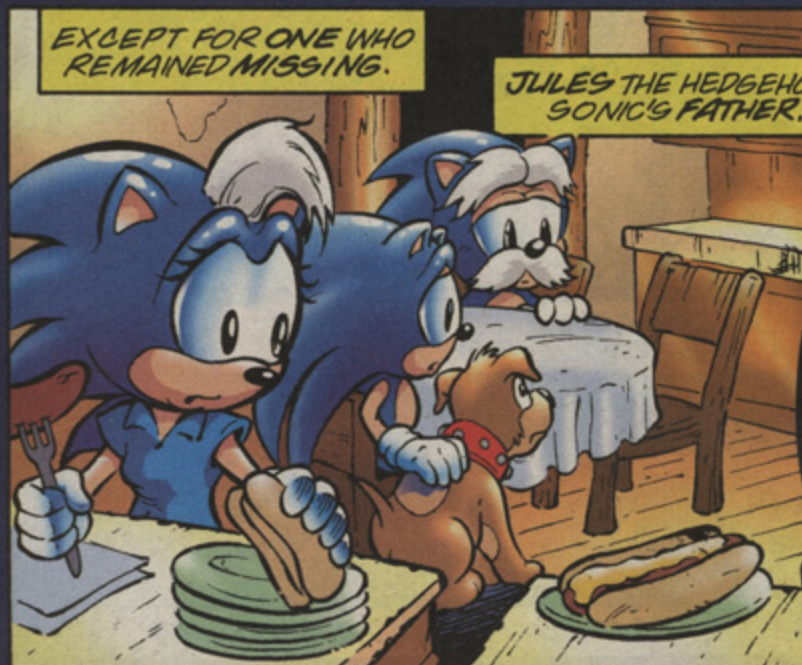
THOUGH THE MYSTERY REMAINED
UNSOLVED, IT WAS AGREED THE
WORLD OVER, THAT A MIRACLE
HAD OCCURRED,



AS TIME WENT ON, ALL OF THE
ROBIANS WERE RETURNED,
RESTORED TO FLESH AND BLOOD,



EXCEPT FOR ONE WHO
REMAINED MISSING.



JULES THE HEDGEHOG,
SONIC'S FATHER,

UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY.



DAD!!

HE WAS BACK, SAFE,
BUT UNLIKE THE OTHERS
WHO HAD VANISHED AND
REAPPEARED...

...SONIC'S FATHER WAS
STILL ROBOTICIZED,

DON'T WORRY,
JULES! I WON'T REST UNTIL
I'VE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE YOU
JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

BUT EVEN THOUGH
SONIC'S UNCLE
CHUCK WORKED
DAY AND NIGHT TO
FIND A CURE...

...HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

AS THE WEEKS DRAGGED
ON, JULES DISCOVERED
THAT HE WAS AN OUT-
SIDER LOOKING IN AT
HIS FAMILY. THEY
COULD EAT.

THEY COULD SLEEP. HE
COULDN'T. WHY HAD IT TAKEN
HIM SO LONG TO NOTICE ALL
THESE DIFFERENCES?

SONIC THOUGHT IT CRUEL
AND UNFAIR, AND THEN
REALIZED, THE ONLY
PERSON ON THE PLANET
HE ASSOCIATED THOSE
WORDS WITH WAS--

ROBOTNIK!!

WHAT IS IT, HEDGEHOG?!
YOU'RE CUTTING IN ON
PRECIOUS "SCHEMING"
TIME!

IS THAT HOW YOU
GET YOUR KICKS NOW,
YA BIG JERK?

DON'T BE **STUPID**! WHAT MAKES
YOU **THINK** I CHANGED ANY OF
THEM **BACK** IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHY'D YOU
DEROBOTICIZE
ALL OF THE
ROBIANS
EXCEPT FOR
MY DAD?!

ONE OF THE FEW THINGS IN
LIFE THAT MADE ME **HAPPY** WAS
KNOWING THAT I'D **TURNED** YOUR WHOLE
FAMILY INTO OIL DRUMS WITH EYEBROWS. MEH...

HE
DENIED DOING
ANY OF IT,
AND IT'S
WEIRD, BUT I
KINDA
BELIEVE
HIM!

I WON'T STOP
WORKING **UNTIL**
I'VE FOUND A CURE,
JULES,

--WHY SHOULD NOW BE
ANY DIFFERENT BECAUSE
I STILL AM?

NO, CHARLES,
I CAN'T **STAND** THE
WAY YOU'VE BEEN
PUSHING YOURSELF
LATELY.

INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON
THE FACT THAT I HAVEN'T **CHANGED**,
HOW ABOUT CELEBRATING THE
FACT THAT EVERYONE **ELSE** HAS?

--BUT I'LL
FIND OUT WHO
DID THIS, I
SWEAR!

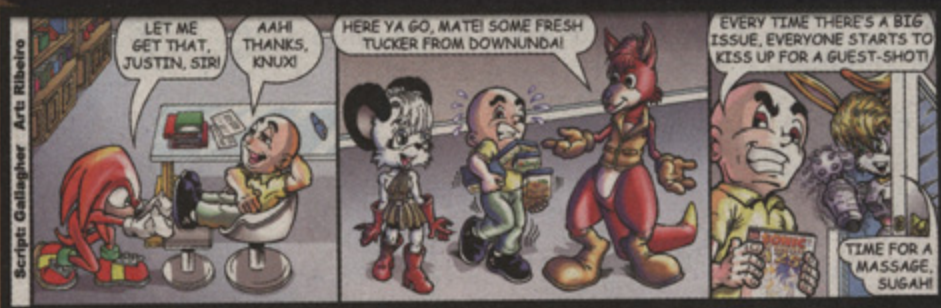
I REALIZED THAT
WHEN WE WERE **ALL**
ROBOTICIZED, WE WERE
HAPPIER--

DAD'S **RIGHT**.
NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS, WE'LL FACE
THE FUTURE TOGETHER
AS A **FAMILY**--

THE END?

SONIC GRAMMYS

OFF PANEL



THIS JUST IN!

Hey Sonic fans. Now...

I could speak about something I've been mentioning for some time: that next issue begins the story that leads into SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #125, the 10th Anniversary issue of the comic or that Yuji Naka, the Sonic game creator will be writing a special message in it. Instead, I'd like to devote this space to tell you about a new addition to the Sonic freelance family. Specifically, an addition to Steven Butler's family... Aaron Dale Butler, born on Wednesday, April 2, 2003. Of course, I can't do the news justice, as Steven can, so I'll just turn it over to the man himself:

"IT'S A BOY!!!!!! We just got back from the hospital (been there since Tuesday evening). Christy went into labor in the middle of a Wal-Mart. I made a mad dash with her and the rest of our kids to the hospital Tuesday evening, and waited until 3:35 am, when Aaron Dale decided it was time for him to show up on the scene. He couldn't be more fine, and this papa couldn't be more proud."

Congratulations, Steven! He says he'll give us the details as well as let us publish a pic of the newest Butler in a future letters page.

On to other news, I'd like to give a mention of a miscredit: In the SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #120, Andrew Pepoy was credited for inking pages that were done by Jim Amash. Sorry Jim. Please forgive us.

See you in four weeks for the Sonic event of the year! Lates.

ig

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. **THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!**

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SEGA WEBSITE: www.sega.com

**★ COMING
ATTRACTIONS
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG**



NO. 124

Ken Penders here. As I started putting the latest letters page together, I began to notice a certain thread popping up once again. People wondering if we were still going to be here after our upcoming 125th Anniversary issue. Well, folks, I can state beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we most certainly are, and the best is yet to come.

And now, with only 2 issues to go before we celebrate, let's see what the rest of you had to say:

Dear Sonic Grams, Ken etc.

I just wanted to say first and foremost, how much I admire the beautiful, and stupendous work you guys have done. I have been a fan of Sonic ever since I saw the blue blur spin his way onto a video game screen. And I was even more thrilled to watch to the literally "poetic" and even more incredible Sat AM cartoon series. Which brings me to you guys. I have been reading Sonic comics for at least 8 to 9 years, and it's been a pleasurable honor watching this comic evolve right before my eyes as I grew up. From the days Sonic was kicking Caterkiller and all the other badniks into spare parts, to his more recent adventures becoming Mecha-Sonic again, and the eagerly tempting love triangle with Mina and Sally. I gotta tell you, spending all these years reading these comics as each one comes to me month after month, it's one of the best parts of my growing life. But none of this would have been possible without the brilliant script and story work done by Ken Penders and all the other geniuses on the Sonic staff. Over the years, I've noticed the amazing complex changes this comic has endured. And as a die-hard fan, I just wanted to congratulate you guys on all the amazing work you've done.

Like how you have incorporated serious issues, inside a toon-based comic, and still had time to do humor as well. From Dulcy's abusive relationship with Zan, to the anger Sonic felt from Uncle Chuck denying his parents existence, the roboticized casualties of the war, to even Sally's apparent death during the Endgame. Time after time the countless stories changes, and has have never ceased to amaze me. Recently I just finished #118 and #119 and I gotta say, I loved 'em. I also understand you guys have been getting a lot of heat saying the stories are too short, but that's due more to trying to fit all of the characters in. I've also heard fans complain a lot about the aliens scenario, that transformed Dr. Robotnik and Snively into humans again. While I'll admit the idea sounds a bit too out-there for my tastes, deep down, from the artistic view, I can understand why you guys did it.

My guess is you needed some excuse to make them both human again, and this was the best you guys got. For that I respect and admire your imagination and creativity. I'm also becoming heavily infatuated with this triangle between Sally, Sonic, and cute newcomer, Mina the Mongoose. I am very much enjoying the tension, romance and intrigue of this triangle. I think Mina is a beautiful character both on the outside and within. There are some things you cannot change, and even though this is a comic book series, I think most fans would agree fate has determined that Sonic and Sally should end up together. But then again you writers could change fate seeing as how it's your comic book. But never the less, I hope to see more romantic developments between both Mina and Sally with Sonic. When it all comes down to it though, I pray that Sonic and Sally be the winning couple.

One concern I do have is that you are in fact killing off the Knuckles series, along with Knuckles himself. His series, while second in favorite compared to Sonic, I have to admit, is far more complex then any drama series can be.

You guys give ol' dreadlocks so many twist and turns, it's no wonder he's still the same echinda after everything. So, I hope the redhead makes it through this.

I have one last very important question, and it has to do with Robotropolis' destruction. Thanks to the big nukes in issue #110 everything was wiped out, and that means the Roboticizer as well. So what I want to know is, with the roboticizer gone for good, and Uncle Chuck too wary to ever dare making another one, is there ever gonna be a chance or a time when all of the robians like Sonic's parents, Muttski, and all the others, are de-roboticized once and for all? Not to mention Tails' father and mother, to whom I'd still like to know what happened. In the meantime, I wish you guys good luck with all of the great art and story work you always come through with. And eagerly await the next issue of my fav spiny super speedy blue hedgehog. If they ever do make another toon series of Sonic, it should be from your stories in the comics. Bet you people would triple spin themselves out to see that ^^
Bye for now,

Sincerely your eternal fan
Rob The Red Scar

There's just about nothing that would rev our jets more here at Archie than seeing our stories in animated form on the tube, except for the new Sonic X animated series, produced by Sonic's creator Yuji Naka himself. I'll let Mr. Naka mention more about it in his message printing in SONIC #125. About your important question concerning the fate of the roboticized Mobians, I trust it's been answered to your satisfaction with this issue.

As for this issue, it's a wrap, people. We'll see you in thirty. Ciao. (Or is that Chao?)